

## **Historic, Archive Document**

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## JOSEPH S. MERRITT

*The Maryland Flower Garden*

## HYDRANGEA SPECIALIST

Ship To

Street and No.

City and State

Date

Our Order No.

Your Order No.

To Ship

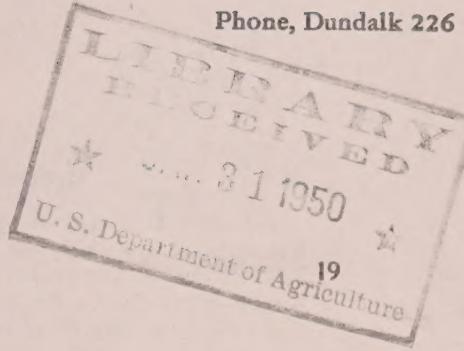
Shipped

Via { Exp.  
Fr.  
No. Bxs.

Invoice To

Street and No.

City and State



ALL PRICES PER 100 PLANTS—ORDERS ACCEPTED IN UNITS OF 25 PER VARIETY.

VARIETIES	R. C.	2"	3"	4"	5"	6"	7"	8"	AMOUNT
FOR INTRODUCTION—1949	<b>25.00</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>90.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>	\$
Arthur Billard, M: Rose Pink									
Charm, E: Carmine Red									
*Charming, M: Pink									
Dixie, M: Rose Pink									
Drapes Pink, E: Salmon Pink									
Dundalk, M: Medium Red									
Flambard, E: Red									
*Holstein Blue, M: Blue, Light Pink									
Mme. G. J. Bier, M: Clear Pink									
Pinnacle, E: White									
Pres. R. Touchard, E: Light Red									
Princess Beatrix, M: Rose Pink									
Red Emperor, E: Red									
*Rose Supreme, M: Rose Pink									
Southland, M: Carmine									
Spring Time, E: Carmine Pink									
<b>TOTALS</b>									\$
NOVELTIES per 100	<b>16.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>125.00</b>	<b>250.00</b>	
"bobby merritt" M: Coral Bell Pink									
"jean merritt" M: Dark Pink									
Caprice, M: Excellent White									
Engel's White, M: Strong Grower									
"merritt's beauty", E: Dark Carmine Red									
*Strafford, M: Dark Pink									
<b>TOTALS</b>									\$
RECENT INTRODUCTIONS per 100	<b>12.00</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>	
Altona, E: Clear Pink									
*Europa, E: Salmon Pink									
Hamburg, E: Carmine									
Merveille, L: Light Red									
Regula, E: White									
*Rosabelle, L: Rose Pink									
<b>TOTALS</b>									\$
STANDARD VARIETIES per 100	<b>6.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>45.00</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>	
*Gertrude Glahn, M: Dark Rose									
*Goliath, M: Dark Rose									
*Louis Savage, L: Dark Pink									
*Niedersachsen, E: Light Pink									
Our Selection									
<b>TOTALS</b>									\$

TOTAL AMOUNT

\$

\* Blues Easily E: Early M: Mid-Season L: Late

Flowering Shoots per Plant—3", One Shoot; 4", Two or More; 5", Three or More; 6", Four or More; 7", Seven or More; 8", Eight or More.

Merritt's Hydrangeas Bloom

# *Merritt's Hydrangeas Bloom*

## **Hydrangea Culture**

We are Hydrangea Specialists, growing no other Flowers or plants. We do not force Hydrangeas into flower, but concentrate all of our efforts to produce better Hydrangeas for you to bloom. We ship rooted cuttings and small plants, in season in all varieties, for growing, and dormant Hydrangeas in the Fall and early Spring for forcing. We force some of every variety, each year, for a culture check, and they can be seen at our Greenhouses during the early Spring months.

First, make sure of the varieties that grow best for you and that sell best in your locality. We offer thirty-four varieties this season. You will say, "Too many," and we agree; but each variety has its champion in one section of the country or another. Try a few novelties each year to see how they act under your conditions, but stick to the proven varieties until you have found a better one. If in doubt, as to the variety, please specify your selection early, mid-season or late, and we will give our very best judgment from our past experience, giving you the best varieties for your locality.

If you grow your own Hydrangeas, do not make the common mistake of rooting all of the blind shoots that appear. Remember that "Like begets Like," and if this practice is followed, it will eventually lead to disaster, and one day you will find a complete crop of blind Hydrangeas. Rather than that, keep varieties separate and select the very best flowering plants and get your cuttings from these by sacrificing the flower tips. It will pay dividends. If you purchase your cuttings, order early so that we might be better prepared to serve you. No order is too large of any variety, if we are advised in time, for we have ample stock of Quality Hydrangeas in all varieties. The Best Hydrangeas come from the earliest cuttings. Cuttings, with us, are shipped in the early Spring and until the first of July, for single flowering plants. Two inch and three inch plants are offered at all seasons and from these sizes, the larger and stronger plants are grown.

Use Virgin Soil, without food, for the first potting from the sand. If food is used the cuttings are easily ruined at this tender stage of growth. As soon as they are ready to be shifted to threes, then use your proper soil mixture. With us, it is Light Virgin Soil, (not spent Greenhouse soil). If soil is heavy, add one barrow of coarse sand to three barrows of loam. Add one barrow of well rotted cow manure to the four barrows of soil. One four inch pot full of bone meal to each barrow of soil and a three inch pot full of good fertilizer to each of soil. We find Vigoro an ideal addition. We use this soil mixture in each potting, after two inch and find that if they are kept repotted, as necessary, no other food is needed. The soil should have a Ph of about 6.0. Most soils, however, that produce good carnations, cyclamen or poinsettias will usually grow Hydrangeas.

**Color:** Usually Hydrangeas flower pink. However, if your soil is full of iron, and they flower blue, try adding Lime to offset this condition. If blue is desired, add a three inch pot full of Aluminum Sulphate to each barrow of soil and if this does not change them to the desired shade, apply it in a liquid form during their forcing period, making certain that the soil is never allowed to dry until the chemical is completely exhausted.

**General Culture:** Keep small plants in a cool airy house, and as soon as danger of frost is over in the Spring, take them out into the beds for the Summer, repotting them to a larger size, as needed. Give them plenty of space and make certain the beds have good

drainage. Be sure they get sufficient water to keep them growing well. We usually repot them when they are taken from the houses and again about the first of August. If you grow your plants in the fields, then the first of September is the accepted time for potting.

Top the late flowering varieties about the twentieth of June, and the earliest flowering kinds about the tenth of July. When topping, leave sufficient foliage, in fact, leave as much as possible for the plants to breathe well. If not too tall, we prefer soft pinching, for you will get several more good flowering shoots than if they are topped too low. Hydrangeas should be gone over during early August and all weak shoots stripped from them. This will allow the stronger shoots to make better flowers and more sure to bloom.

Hold back on water, during September and October. This will encourage dormancy. They will harden and buds set better, as the weather gets cooler. Try to have them in shape to be taken in to protected places before the first frost hits them. Don't be fooled. The first frost is excellent if it is mild and plants are in the proper shape, but we cannot control this frost and it is usually disastrous. Don't wait for the first frost. You might ruin your entire crop. Rather, take them into a cool Greenhouse, darkened a little, after the buds are well set and keep them just above freezing until late December. Do not allow them to freeze, nor to get too warm. Thirty-five degrees, if it could be controlled, would be ideal while in storage.

Watch watering during the dormant period. Too little will cause buds to shrivel and be lost. Too much will encourage growth in crowded conditions, and perhaps dampen off the buds. Water at this period, properly controlled, is most important.

The plants should be defoliated by the first of December and they should be started in a cool house about the twentieth of December at a night temperature of fifty degrees. Give them plenty of space on the benches, as soon as growth starts, or about the tenth of January, and at that time increase the temperature gradually to sixty degrees nights. Be sure the plants get good ventilation each day. A stuffy atmosphere will cause ruin and weak plants, while plenty of good fresh air will make strong plants. If plants are wanted for Mother's Day, they should be started about the first of February and the same general procedure should be followed. Hydrangeas should be syringed every day the sun shines, but no water on the foliage on cloudy days. This should prevent red spider, but, if it should show up, be on the alert and use some good spray material. We like Rotocide; however, it should be watched to see that sufficient quantity is used to kill properly, but not enough to injure the plants. Do not use it after the flowers start to open. Be sure they are good and clean, and it will not be necessary. Use sulphur, if it becomes necessary, for mildew.

Try to keep your Hydrangeas coming along nicely, so that buds definitely show about six weeks before the time wanted for sale. If they do, in this section of the country, they will bloom easily and in plenty of time to give them a lower temperature with plenty of air to harden them, before sending them to your customers. In cooler climates, seven weeks should be allowed after buds are seen.

Always remember, the best Hydrangeas come from the earliest cuttings.

JOSEPH S. MERRITT